

Patron—His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Bishop of Killaloe

The Kilrush Operatic Society

(Amateur)



Presents Donizetti's

THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT

By Arrangement with Novello & Co. Ltd., London
English Translation by Natalia MacFarren

With GUEST ARTISTS:

☆ MARGARET NISBETT

☆ ALMA CAESARI

(Sopranos)

☆ KENNETH MacDONALD

(Tenor)

☆ RONALD LEWIS

(Baritone)

*(Appears by permission of the Royal Opera
House, Covent Garden, London)*

☆ JOHANNA PETERS

(Contralto)

Margaret Nisbett sings the lead. May 25, 27, 29 and 31.

Alma Caesari sings the lead May 26, 28, 30 and June 1.

At Mars Theatre, Kilrush, for 8 Nights

Whit Sunday, May 25th to Sunday, June 1st

performance commences at 8.45 p.m.

TICKETS:

Balcony - - 6/6 Bookable
Parterre - - 5/-
" - - 3/- Unreserved

RESERVATIONS:

* Please write, telephone or call:
OPERA BOOKING OFFICE,
Co. Williams Hotel, Kilrush. Phone 36.

Souvenir Programme - - One Shilling

From the Past

1951

"STUDENT PRINCE"

JOSEPHINE SCANLON -
JOSIE O'DONNELL -
DENIS EGAN - - -

"Overhead the moon is beaming"
"Golden days in the sunshine of our
happy youth"
"Deep in my heart dear, I have a
dream of you"

1952

"DESERT SONG"

JOHN DETTICK -
JOSEPHINE SCANLON -
JOSIE O'DONNELL -

"If one flower grows alone in your garden"
"One alone, to be my own"
"Blue Heaven, and you and I"

1955

"NEW MOON"

PATRICIA BAIRD -
THOMAS ROUND -
KEVIN BARDEN -

"Give me some men who are stout-hearted
"Lover come back to me" [men]
"One kiss, one man to save it for"

1956

"ROSE MARIE"

LISBETH LENNON -
THOMAS MILNE -

"The Indian Love Call"
"On through the hail, like a pack of
angry wolves—"

1957

"MARITANA"

LISBETH LENNON -
JANET HOWE -
JOHN HAUXWELL -
KENNETH McDONALD

"Scenes That Are Brightest"
"Alas, Those Chimes"
"In Happy Moments Day by Day"
"Let me like a Soldier Fall"

"The Daughters"



MARGARET NISBETT

Has sung with the Australian Opera Company in Melbourne. Won Australian £1,000 Nation wide vocal contest. Sung The Dolls Song in "The Tales of Hoffman" with the Dublin Grand Opera last year.



ALMA CAESARI

Studied at the Scala Experimental Theatre at Milan in Italy. Spent one year with the Hanover Opera in Germany. This is her first appearance in Ireland.

Ronald Lewis



APPEARS by permission of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where he enjoys a contract as leading Baritone. In addition he has sung as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and with the Halle Orchestra in the Promenade Concerts. Has sung in eight countries in Opera, Concert and Oratorio, and with the B.B.C. and on Television. With the Dublin Grand Opera Company, played Scarpia in "Tosca", Marcel in "La Boheme", and Escamillo in "Carmen."

He is a firm favourite with Southern audiences, following his singing of the difficult role of Danny Mann in the "Lily of Killarney" which appeared in Cork, two seasons ago.

Handwritten in blue ink: "Ronald Lewis" and "Don Caesar".

Kenneth MacDonald



Handwritten in blue ink: "Don Caesar".

Comes straight to Kilrush from his outstanding success last week in Waterford where he played the leading role in "Lucia De Lammermoor". He is remembered in Kilrush for his outstanding role of Don Caesar in "Maritane" last year. Also well known on the B.B.C. and Television Programmes.

Handwritten in blue ink: "Kenneth MacDonald" and "XXX".

Johanna Peters



Handwritten in blue ink: "Don Caesar" and "Johanna Peters".

This is the first visit of this young Contralto to Ireland. She has previously sung with the Carl Rosa Opera Company, the English Opera Group, and the New Opera Company at Sadlers Wells.

“The Daughter of The Regiment”

A Comic Opera in Two Acts by GAETANO DONIZETTI.

English version by Natalia MacFarren and Oscar Weil, and the Production based on the adaption made and used by Charles Manners.

Producer—MR. PATRICK MacCLELLAN

Characters in order of appearance

THE COUNTESS OF BIRKENFELD	JOHANNA PETERS
ORTENSIO (Her Steward)	JACK CULLIGAN
A PEASANT	GERRY CLANCY
SERGEANT SULPICE (of the 20th Grenadiers) ..	RONALD LEWIS

MARIE (A Vivandière)	Sun., Tues., Thurs. & Sat. { MARGARET NISBETT
	Mon., Wed., Fri. & Sun. { ALMA CAESARI

TONI (A Tyrolean)	KENNETH MacDONALD
A CORPORAL	THOMAS MOLONEY

BABETTE (A Chamber Maid)	Sun., Tues., Thurs. & Sat. { SUE O'DONNELL
	Mon., Wed., Fri. & Sun. { MARGARET FENNELL

A NOTARY	JACK KELLER
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HOSTESS OF THE INN	AGNES O'REILLY
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FLUNKYS	P J. O'HALLORAN and T ENRIGHT
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LADIES OF THE CHORUS—M. Daly, A. Culligan, N. O'Leary, A. Maher, M. Lillis, P Enright, B. McCarthy, M. Cotter, P Buggle, B. Lynch, A. Carey, S. Breen, O. Nash, K. Harrop, S. Moody, P Carmody, C. Shannon, B. Howard, M. Clancy, M. Moloney, P Hayden, M. Gleeson, M. Fennell, S. O'Donnell.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS—M. O'Halloran, P McInerney, F Breen, J Flynn, J Kiely, ~~G. Lyons~~, ~~J. O'Dea~~, R. Moloney, M. Mahoney, P Shalloo, C. Clancy, V. Eustace, P Nash, ~~T. Mangan~~, J Fennell, D. O'Sullivan, S. O'Shea, J Grogan, W Halley, W O'Looney, ~~J Enright~~, P. J O'Halloran, J Keller, G. Clancy, T Moloney and J Culligan.

DANCERS—M. Timlin, B. Carmody, E. Breen and N Meaney

Orchestra

Musical Director and Conductor. MR. GEORGES MINNE,
Graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Music.

1st Violinist F. O'Carroll (leader), Mrs. Rathbourne, T. Crotty, 2nd Violins Miss Francis Flavin, B. Cullinane, Viola Herr Gebler, Cello Miss K. Behan, Double Bass P. Kavanagh; Flute. Miss E. Leeming, Oboe Kevin Kavanagh, Clarinet: Army School of Music, Horns Tom Scollard, W Moore; Trumpet: D. Sutton, Timpani: E. O'Carroll; Pianist. Miss A. Hynes.

Stage Manager Miss E. Lynch, Stage Erection. Mr. J. Culligan; Lighting Mr G. C. Glynn, Make-up. Mr J A. Doyle, Programmes Miss M. Kelly, Ice Cream. Mrs. J Culligan, Teas for Cast Ladies Committee; Lighting: Strand Electric & Engineering Co. Ltd., of Dublin, Costumes Ladies Sewing Committee and P. J. Bourke & Co., Dublin.

The Story of the Opera

SIXTEEN years before the opera begins Marie, at the age of two, was found alone and abandoned on a field of battle in Bavaria, and was cared for and brought up by the soldiers of the Regiment of the 20th Grenadiers of the Emperor Napoleon's Army.

ACT I

When the curtain rises, the war between the French and the Austrians is just finishing, and a number of Tyrolean refugees are imploring Heaven to protect them from the victorious French soldiery. Among them is the eccentric Countess of Birkenfeld who is trying to return to her castle nearby.

With news of the Peace the peasantry disperse, and a detachment of the 20th Grenadiers arrive to garrison the district under the command of Sergeant Sulpice. Marie, the adopted "Daughter" of the Regiment, is with him and confides to him that she has fallen in love with Toni, a young Tyrolean, much to the disapproval of the Sergeant and the men of the 20th.

Toni is arrested as a spy, but when Marie explains that he rescued her from a dangerous cliff face, he is released, given a drink and told to go away. They contrive to meet again, and in order to be near Marie and to qualify for her hand in marriage, Toni decides to enlist with the Regiment.

The Countess of Birkenfeld applies to Sergeant Sulpice for a military escort, and during the conversation reveals that she is the Aunt of a child lost sixteen years before on the battlefield, and this proves to be none other than Marie. The Countess persuades her to leave her army life and go with her to Birkenfeld, and Sergeant Sulpice, acting in her best interests, agrees to let Marie go.

ACT II

Marie is being trained to be a "lady" and is not taking kindly to the transformation. Moreover she is pining for Toni, whom she has not seen since she left the Regiment. Sergeant Sulpice, who was wounded in a later engagement has accompanied Marie to Birkenfeld, and together they lament the passing of the old days in the army, and deplore Marie's forthcoming marriage to the Duke of Crakenthorpe, which has been arranged by the Countess to gratify her social ambitions.

The Guests and the Notary arrive to witness Marie's signature to the marriage contract, when a disturbance occurs, and the 20th Grenadiers surround and invade Castle Birkenfeld under the leadership of "Captain" Toni, who claims Marie as his bride.

The Countess will have none of this, but Sergeant Sulpice has been making secret enquiries into her "past", from which it appears that Marie is not the Countess' niece, but her daughter. In order to avoid a public scandal, the Countess is persuaded to cancel the contract with the Duke and give her blessing instead to the happy union of Marie and her Toni.

THE ACTION OF THE OPERA

Takes place in the Austrian Tyrol in A.D. 1814 during the Napoleonic War

ACT I

Outside a country inn at the foot of the Tyrolean mountains.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

(A Fanfare will be sounded outside the Theatre three minutes before the rise of the Curtain for Act II)

ACT II

Scene I—A Room in Castle Birkenfeld a few months later.

Scene II—Later the same evening.

Musical Director and Conductor



GEORGES MINNE

COMES from Ghent. On graduation in 1952, left Belgium for Roscrea. A grandson of Baron Georges Minne, world famous Sculptor of Religious Art, whose last major work was the Sacred Heart statue for the new Basilica in Brussels.



Came to Kilrush two years ago where he holds appointment as Organist and Choir-master at St. Senan's Church, Kilrush. Is well known throughout the country for his Organ recitals on Radio Eireann.



Was Musical Director and Conductor of the Society's production of "Maritana" at Easter last year. Has been taking rehearsals for "The Daughter of the Regiment" regularly since January.

PREVIOUS Productions With the Cork Grand Opera Group, three seasons in 1954, 1955 and 1958 respectively, his most recent being "FAUST" and "LUCIA DE LAMMERMOOR" for that Society



Was in Dublin as Stage Director for the Dublin Grand Opera Society in 1952, 1954 and 1955, and in the Spring of 1957. Produced "MIGNON" and "FREDERIKA" in Edinburgh.



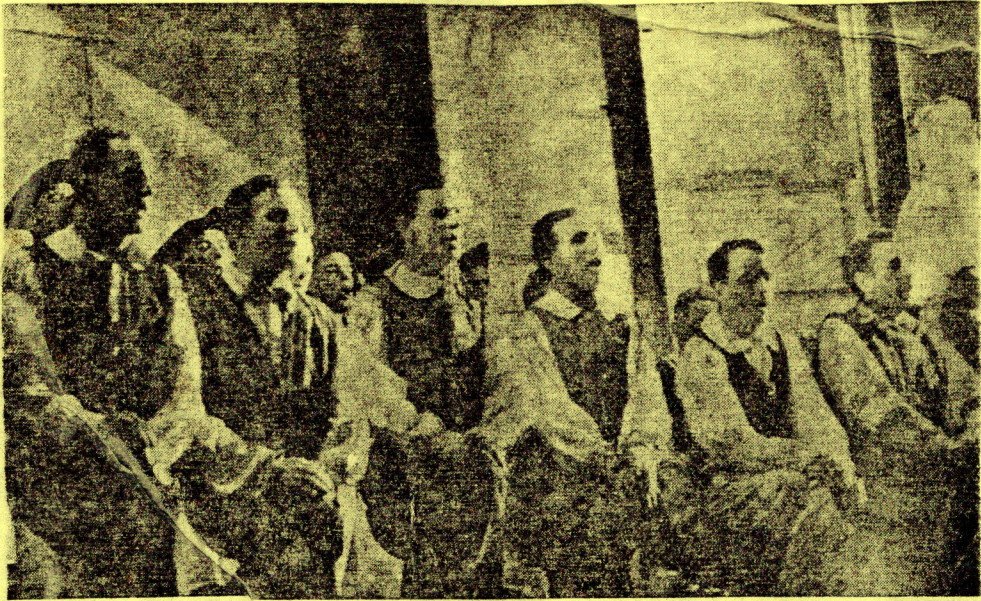
Stage managed the tour of the Drury Lane productions of "SOUTH PACIFIC" and "THE KING AND I", and has just produced the latter for the Westcliffe Amateur Operatic Society. In June, Mr. MacClellan joins the Welsh National Opera Co., as Stage Director and Resident Producer

Producer



PATRICK MacCLELLAN

About Our Own Members



The Tenor line of the Kilrush Male Chorus—Scene from "New Moon" in 1955.

- ★ JACKIE CULLIGAN (Ortensio)—Strong pillar of the Society since its earliest days, and has had leading roles in all productions. Acted as Musical Director of "Rose Marie" two years ago. Senior Official in Kilrush G.P.O.
- ★ GERRY CLANCY (A Peasant) — His proclamation of the defeat of the French Army in the first scene shows his fine clear tenor voice in one of the highlights of the Show. Has had a leading part in all previous productions. On the staff of a local timber mill.
- ★ THOMAS MOLONEY (The Corporal of the 20th Regiment). His fine bass voice makes an outstanding impression as he leads the Rataplan chorus with Sergeant Sulpice. Is employed in a local timber mill.
- ★ SUE O'DONNELL and MARGARET FENNELL—These two leading Sopranos have been the mainstay of the Ladies' Chorus in all rehearsals and in productions since 1955. They now make their first dramatic appearance on alternative nights in the light role of Babette. Sue is a telephonist in the Post Office and Margaret does secretarial work.
- ★ AND THE CHORUS—By unceasing practice since January, have again done all possible to maintain the high standard set by previous productions.

Patrons

THE Society is deeply grateful to its numerous Patrons who each year, by their unflinching support, enable it to undertake such ambitious productions. A list of Patrons up to the time of printing for "The Daughter of the Regiment" is enclosed separately. To those who may not have received our Patrons' Appeal we would advise that for a subscription of £1:

- (a) Patrons are entitled to one complimentary balcony ticket;
- (b) Become patron members of the Society and are thus entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting in July.
- (c) By their generous support keep the Society in being which provides a worthwhile occupation for almost 100 active members.

Personnel 1957/1958 Season.

Chairman—DR. RICHARD COUNTHAN

Hon. Secretary—MR. C. D. GLYNN

Hon. Treasurer—MR. R. N. BERRY

Committee—W. D. .
Sunders, P. J. Byrne, J. M. Sherin, M. Howard, J. Fennell, J.
Keller, J. Clancy, J. Clancy, J. Culligan, G. C. Glynn, J. Doyle, Miss E. Lynch.
Co-opted to Committee: Messrs J. Conway and T. Sheehar.

Hon. Correspondence Secretary—MISS MARGARET FENNELL.

- ☆ The Kilrush Operatic Society acknowledges with thanks the ever-ready assistance of the Rev. Super and Brothers of the Christian Brothers' School, Kilrush, who pioneered the Society and have since kept it going by their constant and ever-willing help, and by the provision of the School and equipment for rehearsals.
- ☆ The Society also thank brothers who by their voluntary efforts have contributed to this Production.